GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COAL
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3491
ANSWERED ON:20.03.2001
SUPPLY OF COAL TO POWER SECTOR
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Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the coal industry is equipped to meet the demand of coal from the power sector which has plans to augment its thermal generation capacity;

(b) whether the supply of coal to power sector has been on the decline due to long delays on the start-up of thermal plants which are in the pipe-line;

(c) the extent to which the demand of coal from railways has declined due to the on-going electrification projects by the railways; and

(d) the extent to which the coal industry has been gearing up to answer the environmental aspects related to the use of coal in the energy generation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR COAL (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN)

(a)to(b): Coal companies have been adequately meeting the coal requirements of various coal-based power utilities. Coal consumption by the power utilities in the last three years is given below:

(In million tonnes)

Year	Coal consumption
1997-1998	202.81
1998-1999	207.12
1999-2000	220.24

(c) Coal consumption by Indian railways has progressively gone down from 4482.75 thousand tonnes in 1990-91 to 10.36 thousand tonnes in 1999-2000 due to electrification as well as diesalisation of steam services.

(d) Ministry of Environment and Forests (MOEF) has stipulated that coal based thermal power stations
(i) located 1000 km from pithead
(ii) in urban areas or critically polluted areas or sensitive areas shall use coal of less than 34% ash with effect from 1.6.2001. Coal India Limited has prepared a coal supply matrix for supply of coal having less than 34% ash to such power stations which are covered under the aforementioned notification of MOEF.